

issuing security clearances for all members of the commission.

I have since been informed that unlike Mr. Al-Marayati, all other appointees to the commission either hold or recently held security clearances and will only require a brief update in order to begin their service. I have also been notified that in order to issue for any individual a first-time security clearance of the level likely to be required for the sensitive matters to be reviewed by the commission, the investigating agencies generally require up to twelve months or more to conduct a complete background investigation.

In light of the fact that the term of the commission is only six months, it has become evident that an appropriate security clearance is not likely to be processed in time for Mr. Al-Marayati to participate in the commission's work. This situation has therefore required that his appointment to the commission be withdrawn.

Despite these circumstances, Mr. Al-Marayati is prepared to provide input to the commission on matters of interest and concern to the American Muslim community. I hope the commission will listen to the voices of this community and address the issues of civil rights for all Americans consistent with a strong U.S. anti-terrorism policy.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### LET US HONOR ALL VIETNAM VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an urgent need that is addressed by House Concurrent Resolution 134, a resolution which we call the "In Memory Day" resolution introduced earlier this month.

When passed, this resolution will affirm that Congress supports the goals and ideas of what we have been calling "In Memory Day," which is the third Monday of April.

Though the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a deeply moving reminder of many courageous Americans who gave their lives for their country, it includes only the names of those who died from combat wounds. Many other brave veterans have died as a result of their service in Vietnam, but their causes of death do not fit within the criteria established by the Department of Defense for inscribing their names on the Memorial. By observing "In Memory Day," we will honor these patriotic Americans and remember their sacrifice.

Veterans whose deaths were hastened by exposure to Agent Orange, for example, count among the casualties of Vietnam, but their names are not inscribed on the Memorial. Veterans who have taken their own lives as a result of the deep psychological wounds from

their service are not included either, but their deaths are fundamentally tied to their experiences in Vietnam. These veterans and their families deserve recognition and support.

This year, last April 19, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund held its first "In Memory Day" to commemorate these people who died but whose deaths do not merit inscription on the Wall. From this year forward, the "In Memory Day" event will be observed each year at the Wall, along with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as one of the official ceremonies of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Names of fallen comrades will be added to the "In Memory Honor Roll" each year, just as the names of those who died as a result of combat in Vietnam are added to the famous memorial at the Wall.

Many returning heroes came back from Vietnam with their health shattered, both physically and mentally. They were wounded by their time in Vietnam, and they deserve our gratitude and recognition.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 134.

#### WE NEED ACTION NOW ON REAL CRISIS IN FARM COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, during the Independence Day district work period, this Member continued his series of town hall meetings with 14 additional meetings to hear the views and questions of my constituents. Many subjects were discussed, but two subjects understandably dominated their concerns.

The first, overwhelmingly expressed, as it has been all year, related to the deplorably bad conditions for farmers and the communities and small businesses that serve farmers and depend upon agriculture. All grain, soybean, and livestock prices are very low, some unprecedentedly low this year, while the predictions are all equally gloomy.

World surpluses and export losses in the Asian markets, huge projected 1999 harvest numbers, coupled with the strength of the dollar as compared to our export competitors' agricultural commodities and products, have created desperate conditions for farmers.

It is reported that the U.S. Government has actually spent more in farm subsidies during the current year than during the most expensive year of the previous farm bill. But those subsidies are not appreciably alleviating what is a real crisis in farm country. Net farm income per farm in my State of Nebraska last year is a negative number after average Federal subsidies are subtracted, as contrasted to a net farm income of over \$40,000 two years ago.

This Member has said for nearly a year now that no ideas or proposed solutions are off the table, all deserve consideration. No ideological blinders

or pride of authorship of any current farm policies should stand in the way of finding answers quickly for turning around and meeting this farm crisis. The administration must use the export promotion tools and dollars the Congress has authorized and be more innovative and aggressive in meeting the crisis.

Without immediate and concerted actions now, thousands of farm families who have been financially responsible and good farmers will be forced from their farms. Modest accumulated savings and assets built up through years of effort and investment are being wiped out and growing debts look overwhelming.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan leadership and members of the Agriculture Committees of the two Houses of Congress must find solutions and proposal actions now, not after the 1999 harvest is complete. That will be too late for thousands of farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness-dependent families and communities. A whole farm infrastructure is threatened. The leaders of the two Houses also must give this matter a top priority for action.

Mr. Speaker, this Member knows these terrible economic problems are not being ignored by our agriculture committees here on Capitol Hill even if the White House and USDA seem indifferent. Solutions to our current dilemma are not obvious. The situation results from perhaps an unprecedented or at least totally unexpected combination of factors.

When this Member asked his farm constituents for ideas or solutions, few have specific answers and there certainly is little agreement. However, one comment is heard over and over again: the loan deficiency payments arrangement provides no floor for prices. And it may, in fact it is suggested, be driving commodity prices down and helping only the major grain companies. This must be examined.

Second, farmers argue in large numbers that they want to see a farmer-held reserve reinstituted.

□ 1900

That needs to be seriously considered and a decision made, one way or another, with an explanation for the decision. And, third, farmers and agriculture leaders also believe the growing concentration of companies that supply the farm population with key inputs and others which serve as their markets deserve closer and immediate scrutiny by the USDA and the Justice Department. These complaints need to be seriously addressed before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, we need action now on a real crisis in farm country.

EDWARD R. ROYBAL CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) CAMPUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the